

PAYING TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM
LAUB, SR.

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor William Laub, Sr. who passed away on October 14, 2007.

William Laub, Sr. was born on July 20, 1924, and went on to live a legacy of service at Southwest Gas and in his community. William's father Harold, along with three other partners began Southwest Gas during the Depression. In 1964, William succeeded his father as Southwest Gas' chief executive officer. He retired in 1988 after serving as CEO for 24 years, and as an employee for 40 years.

In William's time as CEO, Southwest Gas became a major tri-state utility and financial services operation. Southwest Gas began as a small company with no more than three thousand customers in southeastern California and now provides retail natural gas service to more than one million customers in California, Arizona, and Nevada. William's leadership and love of the company his father began was the formula for continued success at Southwest Gas.

William Laub, Sr. was not only passionate about Southwest Gas, but he also was passionate in his love of the community. In the 1960's he founded the Laub Foundation, and as a tribute to his father he established the Harold G. Laub Scholarship Program for children of Southwest Gas employees. He was also instrumental in getting the board of directors to approve a 10-year grant of \$250,000 to the College of Arts and Letters for the Visual and Performing Arts at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Additionally William served as the President of the Boulder Dam Area Council of Boy Scouts, Chairman of the Clark County Republican Central Committee, Republican National Committeeman, Chairman of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission, and a member of the Board of Trustees at KNPR Public Radio among other things. William was also a Director Emeritus from the Claremont School of Theology from 1977–2004, and a Trustee Emeritus of KNPR from 1996–2003.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor William Laub, Sr. Throughout his lifetime he was relentlessly committed to the advancement of Southwest Gas and the community. He was a wonderful asset to Nevada and I send out my deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL LEAD
POISONING PREVENTION WEEK
AND CHILDHOOD LEAD POI-
SONING PREVENTION WEEK

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize this week, October 21–27, 2007, as National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week and as Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Week in the State of Maryland.

In recent decades, researchers have discovered the harmful effects for children who are

exposed to lead products. Lead poisoning in children impacts brain function, resulting in reduced intelligence, learning difficulties, behavioral problems, and other health consequences. Fortunately, lead poisoning from paint in homes is 100 percent preventable. The public needs better information about the dangers of lead exposure.

This bill will help parents hire a certified risk assessor to determine if there is lead paint in their homes. With this vital information, parents can determine how to keep their children safe from lead poisoning.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, over 300,000 American children ages 1–5 years have blood-lead levels greater than the level recommended by the Centers for Disease Control, CDC, 10 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood.

In 2006, over 1,200 Baltimore children under the age of 6 had blood-lead levels equal to or higher than the CDC recommended level. That number has dropped significantly in recent years, but more must be done.

The Federal Government aims to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the United States as a major public health problem by the year 2010. In order to achieve this goal, several Federal agencies including the EPA, the CDC, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, are working together through various grant programs to help individual citizens, non-profits, and the States in their clean-up efforts.

Non-profits around the country are actively working with Federal and State Governments to educate the public about the harmful effects of lead exposure. One such organization based in Baltimore, the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, has been working tirelessly to reach out, educate, and advocate on behalf of children and their families impacted by lead exposure. Organizations such as the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning play an important role in efforts to eliminate childhood lead poisoning in the next 3 years.

In addition to the work done by non-profit organizations and federal and state agencies, I am proposing a Federal tax credit for homeowners that would help offset the costs of cleaning up lead paint in their homes. Today, I am introducing the Home Lead Safety Tax Credit Act of 2007, which would encourage homeowners and landlords to remove lead from homes in order to decrease the number of children who suffer from the effects of lead exposure.

I hope that, through these combined efforts, we will eliminate childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAFE
BUILDING CODES ACT OF 2007

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 22, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007 with my colleague from Florida, Representative MARIO DIAZ-BALART.

The purpose for this legislation is to provide incentives for States to adopt higher building code standards, which will ultimately help preserve property, promote public safety and

make Americans and America's communities safer.

This bill's timeliness can be seen in a recent CBS News Poll that revealed 29 percent of Americans knew someone affected by Hurricane Katrina. As reported by CBS News, the comparable statistic from Hurricane Andrew in 1992 was barely half that—16 percent. This report provides a clear metric of the extent that today's Americans know and understand how disaster can hurt a community.

This report also highlights the clear public merit of the Safe Building Code Incentive Act of 2007 which I introduce today. Building codes strengthen and make safe the homes, businesses and places where our citizens work, play and live. They reflect the collective wisdom of design professionals, builders, and public safety officials who have sought to understand and apply the lessons of past tragedies.

Building codes use a tried and true format to document the reasonable steps that can be taken while new construction is underway to protect our neighbors and their communities from risks that, because they can be foreseen, can and should be minimized. These codes are truly the "ounce of prevention" that is worth far more than any after-the-fact pound of cure which must otherwise be borne by people and communities after they've suffered through a tragic loss of life, stability and treasured belongings and memories.

Where strong building codes are in place and enforced, natural disasters are less likely to be compounded by failures of preparation.

Today's model building codes govern all aspects of construction and help to protect homes and buildings from disasters such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, flood, fire, ice storms and other natural catastrophes.

Strong building codes serve as the backbone of a community's preparedness against natural disasters.

As a Member of Congress my top priority has been public safety since taking office in 2005. My district, Sacramento, CA, is the most at risk river city in the country for catastrophic flooding. The city of Sacramento is located at the confluence of two major rivers, the American and Sacramento.

To a state like California, where we are experiencing significant population growth, and especially to a growing region such as Sacramento, the building standards we incorporate now will go a long way in providing a stable and safer future for our communities and property owners.

WHY WE NEED THE SAFE BUILDING CODE INCENTIVE ACT
OF 2007

In the aftermath of the 2004 and 2005 hurricanes, studies illustrate that the damages associated with high winds could have been avoided or minimized by statewide adoption of model building codes in the Gulf States.

What has become increasingly apparent in the wake of Katrina and other natural disasters that have struck our communities in recent years is that the Federal Government and the private sector are paying billions for disaster relief and rebuilding of communities.

Overwhelming evidence demonstrates the adoption and enforcement of strong statewide building codes greatly reduce disaster-related property damage and personal injuries while providing more efficient economic development and sustainable business operations after an event.